

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 DRC-01 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0339

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 6232

USIAC

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, CENTRAL NEWS DESK AND LAO SERVICE, IEA/L,
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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO RESIGNATION OF RICHARD NIXON AND
ELEVATION OF GERALD FORD TO THE PRESIDENCY

MEDIA REACTION

1. ALL FOUR LAO DAILIES HAD EXTENSIVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE
OF PRESIDENTIAL RESIGNATION, MR. NIXON'S REMARKS AND THE
SWEARING IN OF THE NEW PRESIDENT. (INTERNATIONAL NEWS IS
NORMALLY RESERVED FOR 2ND PAGE). COVERAGE WAS FACTUAL WITH
SUMMARIES STATEMENTS RATHER THAN VERBATIM TEXTS.

2. ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT APPEARED IN PRO-AMERICAN VIENTIANE
XAD LAO, EDITED BY LOCAL UPI STRINGER IN WHICH HE COMMENTED,
"WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT NIXON
WHO STOOD UP TO THE VARIOUS EMOTIONAL TRIALS DUE TO THE IN-
VESTIGATION AND CONSIDERATION OF PUNISHMENT RELATING TO THE
WATERGATE INCIDENT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PERFORMING HIS
DUTIES IN ORDER TO MAKE UP FOR HIS MISTAKES IN RELATION TO
THIS AFFAIR, BELIEVING THAT JUSTICE IS A BALANCING BETWEEN
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RIGHT AND WRONG. IN THIS REGARD HE ACHIEVED GREAT SUCCESS IN

HIS FOREIGN POLICY SUCH AS IN ENDING WARS AND CREATING PEACE.

3. "AT THE SAME TIME WE SALUTE THE MASS MEDIA OF AMERICA, THE RADIO, TELEVISION AND NEWSPAPERS THAT DUG UP WATERGATE FOR THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, THE NATION'S RULERS, TO VIEW, IN ORDER TO HAVE A CLEAN POLITICAL AND A JUST LEGAL SYSTEM. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD LIKE TO PRAISE THE CONGRESS WHO SERVED AS THE TRUE VOICE OF THE WHO ELEVATED THEM, NOT JUST A RUBBER STAMP FOR A DICTATOR AS IN MANY COUNTRIES."

4. THIS EDITORIAL ALSO STATED THAT THIS WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF TRUE DEMOCRACY FOR OTHER NATIONS TO FOLLOW AND THAT TRAITORS SHOULD REALIZE THAT MISTAKES CANNOT BE COVERED UP FOREVER.
PATE

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